GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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© *Photograph by George R. King*

A SAMOAN BASKET MAKER (See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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Geography Changes of 1929

IMPORTANT boundary changes, many settlements and some conflicts occurred during 1929.

A summary by the National Geographic Society shows shifts of boundaries, populations, and sovereignties of the past year.

Important events in the field of world real estate were the establishment of the Vatican City; the settlement of the Tacna-Arica question with a division of the territory between Chile and Peru; the Mukden Government's pledge of alliance to the central Chinese Government at Nanking; the challenge to Russian railroad control in North Manchuria; Great Britain's approval of a plan to turn Iraq from a mandate into an independent nation; and the coup d'état in Jugoslavia by which ministerial government was replaced with a dictatorship administered by the king.

Brazil Busy Settling Boundary Questions on All Sides

Marked progress in settling irritating boundary questions was made in South America. In addition to the Tacna Arica settlement, war in the Chaco region between Paraguay and Bolivia was checked by mediators. The mediators studying the question of which side was responsible for the clash have asked permission of the respective nations to pursue the inquiry deeper into the larger question of a possible boundary. Brazil is busy settling boundary questions on all sides. Negotiations have been started by Brazil to define boundaries on her frontiers with four countries: British Guiana, Venezuela, Uruguay and French Guiana.

Argentina restated her claims to the Falkland Islands—Islas Malvinas, the Argentinians call them—and also to the South Orkney Islands, both of which groups are now under the British flag. The migration of Japanese to Brazil is reported to be increasing. It is estimated that 60,000 Japanese now live in the State of Sao Paulo.

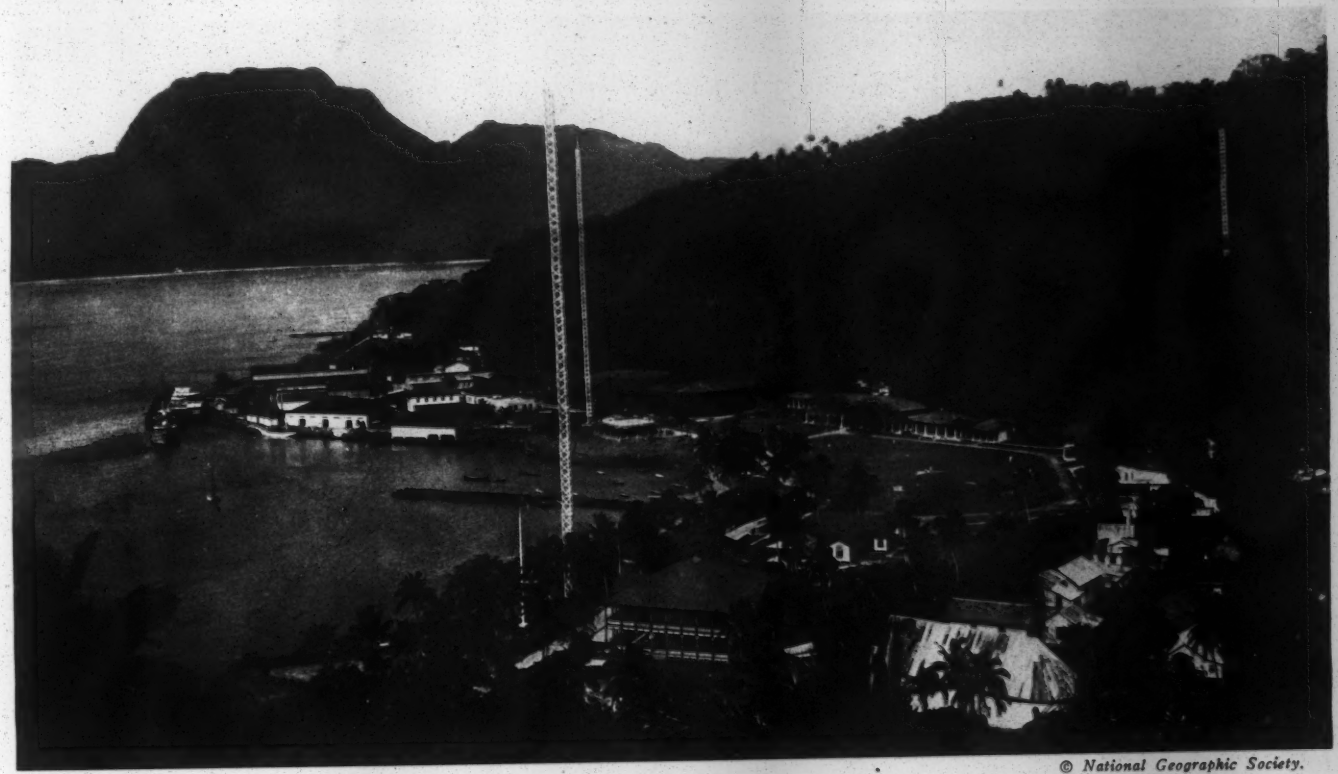
Coincident with the declaration of dictatorship in Jugoslavia the name, Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, was stricken out and the provincial boundaries were redrawn. Along the Rhine, the Allied forces of occupation were cut down, 25,000 soldiers having been withdrawn in the last few months. With the evacuation of Wiesbaden all British troops have left the Rhine. Basel, Switzerland, on the upper Rhine, was selected as home of the new International Bank. Land-bound Czechoslovakia acquired a seaport in 1929 by purchasing port rights from the Free City of Hamburg, Germany. Poles are reported to be buying up land of many Germans who are migrating to Germany proper from East Prussia, the German province separated from Germany by the Polish corridor.

May Decide Saar Question Before Date of Vote

Little Monaco staged a Graustarkian revolt by which the indignant citizens (who pay no taxes) won additional constitutional rights from the reigning Prince. On the northern limits of France the autonomy movement in Alsace was frowned upon by the government.

The Versailles Treaty calls for a final decision on ownership of the Saar and its iron mines by a plebiscite in 1935. This plebiscite may be abandoned if Germany and France can reach a preliminary agreement, now being discussed.

Premier Briand publicly launched the "United States of Europe" plan at Geneva. Economic welding of the continental nations is going on rapidly through



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U. S. NAVAL STATION AT PAGO PAGO, AMERICAN SAMOA, WHERE THE CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATORS WILL LAND

Although missionaries made cricket popular with the Samoans, American sailors cling to their national game, and a baseball diamond (right center) is an integral part of the Naval Station grounds. The harbor at Pago Pago lies within an extinct crater, in shape much like the ankle and foot of a stocking. The Naval Station is on the "instep," its back toward the sea, but with high mountains intervening (See Bulletin No. 5).

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A Coin in a Slot Will Buy Many Things Nowadays

THE United States has taken such an important part in the development of the machine age that it will come as a surprise to many to learn that other nations use certain kinds of machines as much if not more than Americans do.

Coin-in-the-slot machines, the use of which is spreading rapidly in the United States, are probably used even more extensively in large German cities and certain other European centers. By putting a coin in a slot in Berlin you can now get an oiled paper, emergency umbrella. Automatic machines in the German capital dispense and receive camera films, sell papers, sandwiches, cakes, cigars and other commodities.

The United States, however, has developed a tremendous business in manufacturing and selling coin-in-the-slot machines in the domestic and foreign markets.

Siam a Large Purchaser of Automatic Vending Machinery

The rapid growth in the manufacture of the devices that, at the drop of a coin, deliver a package, perform a service, or provide entertainment, has been astounding. In the eight years between 1919 and 1927 the value of such machines produced yearly in the United States increased 328 per cent, and it is estimated that during the past year the value exceeded $10,000,000. Approximately one-tenth of the output is exported to a score or more of foreign countries in all of the continents.

To their surprise, officials of the United States Department of Commerce have just discovered that Siam is taking much more than its expected share of the exports. This monarchy in the hot, steamy, southeast corner of Asia, not only is leading all the countries of its continent in importing American coin-operated machines, but is the sixth largest customer among all countries.

In some out-of-the-way countries, the sheer novelty of American machines has sold them. In Nepal, just outside the northeast corner of India, shining cash registers are used as ornaments in niches along the grand staircase of a palace. Although the reason for the large importation of automatic vending machines by Siam has not yet been found out, it is not believed that they are serving as decorations. It is believed to be more likely that they are selling sweetmeats and weighing the Siamese belles and beaus in the grounds and pavilions at religious fairs and among the crowds that frequent temples and shrines.

Have Your Shoes Shined by Mechanical Hands

In a number of cases foreign purchasers have sent plans to American manufacturers calling for a design for machines that will vend their particular products. Perhaps it is not too much to expect that soon machines in Siam and other southeastern Asiatic countries will be selling, for the equivalent of a nickel or a dime, "the makings" for betel-nut chewers, just as thousands of devices are selling cigarettes, tobacco, and matches in Europe and America.

Automatic selling has made rapid strides since the World War. Chewing gum and sweet chocolate cakes represented most of the machine sales ten years ago. Nowadays, in the largest cities, one may buy through machines a large number of commodities, including handkerchiefs, shoe-strings, tooth-brushes and tooth paste, razor blades, candies, and even groceries. Numerous services are made available by dropping coins in slots. At railway and bus stations one may obtain a locker for his bags by dropping a coin in a slot, in washrooms he may purchase soap and the use of a towel in a similar way, or may have his shoes automatically shined. In

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the development of industrial cartels which serve to puncture tariff walls.

In Asia, the Manchurian question, rising out of the seizure of the Chinese-Eastern Railway and the expulsion of Soviet railroad managers, may soon be settled. Earlier in the year the Mukden Government pledged all Manchuria to the central Chinese Government. The outside world does not know exactly what is going on in Outer Mongolia where competition continues between China and the Soviet for control of vast territory. Abandonment by foreign nations of rights to shape China's tariff was an important step. The British returned the Chinkiang concession to China, and are discussing the relinquishment of Weihaiwei, while the German and Russian concessions in Hankow, Wuchow and Hanyang were seized by Chinese troops.

Afghanistan had four kings in 1929.

Ceylon will be governed by its own ministers, according to a plan approved by the British Government, and the number eligible to vote will be increased from some 200,000 to 1,850,000. The new Labor government in England interpreted commission findings to mean that a dominion status eventually will be granted India.

The Soviet Government elevated Tajikistan to be an autonomous republic and developed plans for a Jewish Soviet in Eastern Siberia. The independence (with British guardianship) of Transjordan was recognized, while in the Syrian mandate the French governor adjourned the constituent assembly indefinitely.

Grouping of African units in larger administration areas was forecast, first, by the recommendation of the East African Commission that a high commissioner be appointed with powers over Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika; and, second, by the French minister of colonies, who predicted the formation of a United French Africa. Italy and France are negotiating to fix the Tunis-Tripoli boundary. Liberia has invited the League of Nations to appoint a commission to investigate charges of slavery within her boundaries.

The United States and Canada signed a treaty permitting increased diversion of water from Niagara Falls for power development. In Central America the United States has assigned a corps of engineers to survey the route for the proposed Nicaraguan canal connecting the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific. Guatemala and Honduras are seeking an agreement over the disputed El Cinchado territory.

New territory was added to world maps by the discoveries of the Byrd Expedition. Rear Admiral Byrd claimed for the United States Marie Byrd Land, which lies outside territories to which Great Britain has advanced claims. In the Antarctic, also, Norway occupied an island in the Roald Amundsen Sea for a whaling station, naming it Peter I Island.

In the Arctic the Soviet Government publicly proclaimed its ownership of Franz Josef Land. Norway has now definitely occupied Jan Mayen Island, north of Iceland, and there Norway has established a meteorological station. Spitzbergen and Jan Mayen have been included under the new official name Svalbard.

Bulletin No. 1, January 27, 1930.

Form for Renewal of Bulletin Requests

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Kamchatka Figures in an Arctic Man Hunt

ONE of the greatest man hunts of Arctic history has been going on near Bering Strait between Siberia and Alaska.

Pilot Ben Eielson and his companion disappeared on a flight to the fur steamer *Nanuk*, which had become jammed in the ice. Three nations, the United States, Soviet Russia and Canada,* have sent men and planes to hunt the lost flyers.

The search brings Kamchatka Peninsula into the world news as the base of operation of the Soviet flyers.

Famous as a Source of Siberian Furs

Kamchatka is a huge, fat finger of land between the Sea of Okhotsk and the Bering Sea, opposite southern Alaska.

A backbone range of volcanic mountains divides the peninsula, several active cones adding to the natural wonders of the region. From the forested valleys of this upland district come many of the famous Siberian furs: sable, ermine, fox, squirrel and bear.

Petropavlovsk, the capital, is a noted fur trading center. It was founded by Russia in the early part of the eighteenth century and was considered important enough to be attacked by the Allies during the Crimean War, although the Russian commander resisted the bombardment of the enemy fleet. It is a straggling old town of rude houses, but has some elements of civilized comfort surprising in so distant an outpost. These luxuries were introduced by generations of fur buyers and Russian officials who have gathered in Petropavlovsk for three centuries.

The majority of the population of the southern part of Kamchatka is made up of semi-civilized natives who live in log towns along the rivers and gain a livelihood by salmon fishing and trapping. Mixed with these are a few immigrant Russian peasants who cultivate farms of rye, potatoes, and turnips. Farther to the north are wild nomadic tribes who live by raising herds of reindeer.

Women Beat the Bridegroom With Willow Switches

These roving tribes to the north occupy a region of flat, moss-covered plains. They live in skin tents and have many customs which mark them as low in the scale of civilization. Their wandering life is so hard that, when the old and infirm are no longer able to follow the tribe in its seasonal migration to better grazing or hunting grounds, these unfortunates are sometimes killed by their relatives.

Among these people the wedding ceremony takes the form of a foot race between bride and bridegroom in which the latter is hindered as much as possible by blows from willow switches given by women of the tribe. This beating gives the bride a chance to escape her bargain if she so desires, since there is no chance of the man catching her unless she be willing for him to do so. This is a sort of last chance at freedom, for once the ceremony is over, the tribal husband is said to be a stern lord and master.

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*Remarkable flights in the far north by Canadian airmen have been reported recently in the *National Geographic Magazine* in "Gentlemen Adventurers of the Air," November, 1929.

restaurants he may buy an entire meal automatically, and at automatic soda fountains he can quench his thirst by thrusting a coin into a small slot.

Stamp vending machines have invaded even the smaller towns, as have automatic scales, automatic pianos, and other musical devices. The latest automatic entertainment apparatus is a powerful radio set which will go into operation for a limited time when a coin is dropped into its maw. Perhaps the ultimate in automatic salesmanship is the talking vending machine. The device not only delivers your purchase, but accompanies it with a cheery "Thank you."

Manufacturers Must Study the Coins of Countries

Several foreign countries are competing with the United States in the manufacture of coin-operated machines, notably Great Britain, Germany and Denmark. Despite this competition, numerous machines are sold in these countries. Great Britain is the best customer although there is a special handicap in that country to the spread of coin-operated machines, because of the lack of a decimal coinage. American manufacturers have had to make a special study of the coins of the countries to which their goods are delivered, and adapt their mechanisms to the local currency.

Bulletin No. 2, January 27, 1930.

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POSTING A LETTER IN A RED ENGLISH MAIL BOX

One of the details of this "automatic machine" is the printed notice above the slot showing that the time of the next collection is 5:15 p. m. This notice is changed by the postman at each round.

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Much of the United States is Still Unmapped and Wide Areas Are Uninhabited

THE United States is only 43.6 per cent mapped. There are some spots which have not even been well explored.

Congress has been asked to pass an appropriation bill this session which will set in motion previous legislation for speeding up work of government map-making agencies.

Intensive mapping of the United States began in 1879. Although only two-fifths of the country has been put on paper in 50 years, a bill, enacted five years ago, looks to the completion of the task in 20 years.

Uncle Sam and his States have taken fairly complete stock in the East. Surveying instruments came over with the early colonists and were put to immediate use. Since those early days survey lines of some sort have been run over almost every square mile of territory east of the Mississippi River.

Florida Has Areas Still Unsurveyed

But although the eastern States have been rather thoroughly surveyed and are on the whole heavily populated, they are not free from isolated areas. In the forests of north central Maine extensive regions, for many months of the year, still know only the hunter and the trapper. In certain sections of the high Appalachians live families of isolated mountaineers whose domains are seldom visited by outsiders.

The only actual blank spots in the eastern United States, however, are in the swamp regions of southern Florida. There are relatively large tracts that have not been surveyed or mapped.

It is only after the Mississippi River has been crossed, going westward, that the extensive blank spots appear. Portions of northeastern Minnesota are virtual wildernesses; but the areas are not great; and, as in the remote sections of Maine, hunters and trappers traverse the country. The Bad Lands of southwestern South Dakota form a sizable area, largely barren, in which only a handful of people live; and sparsely populated areas are found in northern Nebraska, and eastern Wyoming and Montana.

"Culture Marks" on Maps Show the Hand of Man

All along the Rocky Mountains from Canada into New Mexico are uninhabited and practically inaccessible mountain fastnesses. In Texas there are still unfamiliar areas in the "Big Bend" region, close to the Mexican Border, where the Rio Grande River makes a loop far to the south.

In all this country, however, as is noticeable by reference to a large-scale map, no very large areas are free from what the map-maker calls "culture marks": trails, roads, highways, railways, power lines, dams, canals, flumes, factories, villages, towns, and cities—the evidences that man has invaded and taken for his own much of the territory.

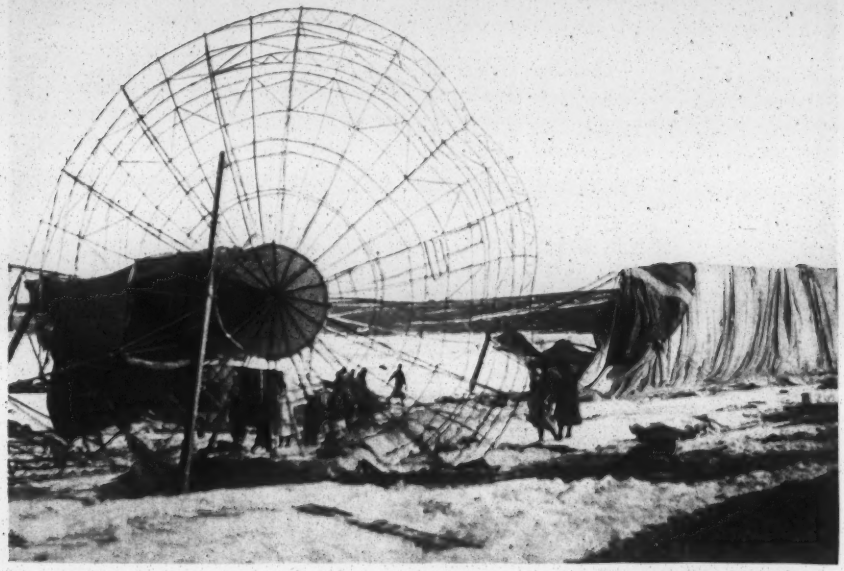
The really remote regions untouched by man can be tested by this matter of map-making. In the eastern States maps show railways and highways so close together that they form a fine-meshed network over the entire region. In the first tier of States west of the Mississippi River this network is still closely spaced; but farther to the west the lines become fewer and the unlined spaces greater. In the mountain and intermountain States are the largest areas uncrossed by "culture lines."

Wild Life and Plant Life Abundant in Summer Time

Several centuries of living in towns and contact with the outside world, together with the more fertile nature of the country, have brought a higher standard of living in southern Kamchatka. One traveler who visited the region and was prepared for a diet of dried fish, reported that he was amazed to have set before him clotted cream with powdered cinnamon, and a jam made of crushed wild rose leaves, sugar and blueberry juice.

During the short northern summers vegetation is luxuriant. Wild flowers fill the valleys with brilliant bloom, and the short rivers of the peninsula teem with ducks and geese. Tall grasses border the beds of these streams and the forests abound in birds and beasts. It is this abundance of wild life which attracts the fur-bearing animals for which Kamchatka is famous.

Bulletin No. 3, January 27, 1930.



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DISMANTLING THE CRIPPLED "NORGE" ON THE BEACH AT TELLER, ALASKA

Teller, which is a base for American and Canadian airmen who are searching for Pilot Ben Eielson and his companion, figured in another Arctic air adventure four years ago. The *Norge*, after sailing across the North Pole from Spitzbergen, was battered by storms off Alaska and compelled to make an emergency landing at Teller.

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What the Congressional Visitors Will See in Samoa

SAMOA, it has been announced, will be visited by a Congressional committee of investigation next summer.

The official visitors will find American Samoa in the South Pacific one of the most picturesque territories of the United States. And they can not fail to be impressed by the native American soldiers who wear kilts—and that's all.

Lorena MacIntyre Quinn has described these soldiers in a communication to the National Geographic Society on Samoa:

"The Fita-Fitas, as the native soldiers are called, constitute an important unit in the government of American Samoa.

"It would be hard to find a more picturesque body of men than these, our South Sea Island soldiers. Tall, broad-shouldered, handsome in features, possessing splendid poise, they are admirable types of their race.

"Their fatigue uniform consists of a black kilt with a bright red stripe around the border. Above the waist and below the knees the uniform is 'Nature's Own.'

When They Wore More Clothes They Took Colds

"A leather belt carrying a dagger on the side holds the kilt or *lava-lava* in place. A bright red turban is the head-dress.

"For dress uniform the Fita-Fitas wear with the *lava-lava* a sleeveless white undervest, similar to the X. Y. Z. or A. B. C. garment graphically described in the advertising sections of magazines.

"When the native soldiers were first taken into the service of the United States, a less abbreviated and more conventional uniform was provided them, with the result that they were constantly suffering from colds; so there was a wise reversion to a uniform on the lines of their native dress.

"The Fita-Fitas have municipal as well as military duties. They act as policemen in and about Pago Pago, guard all prisoners in the Pago Pago jail, and frequently are called upon to settle fights at cricket games between rival native villages. The last-named duty is sometimes a severe test for the soldier as an arbitrator, especially when his own village is involved in the controversy.

Samoan Girls Find the Military Alluring

"When the Governor of American Samoa makes a tour of inspection of Tutuila he is always accompanied by native soldiers. The Fita-Fita selected to be the orderly on such occasions holds a proud position among his friends.

"The official party is received with great dignity and formality by the chiefs of the villages on these tours, as the Samoans delight in ceremony and speechmaking. The reception accorded the Fita-Fitas by the pretty, vivacious Samoan belles of the different villages is always exceedingly cordial. These maidens, with bronze complexions, are as susceptible to the fascinations of the *lava-lava* uniform as their sisters in America are partial to khaki and brass buttons.

"The principal feature of the Fita-Fita organization is the band. A little more than a decade ago the natives of American Samoa had never seen a brass instrument, but with infinite patience a bandmaster of the United States Navy eventually taught some of the Fita-Fitas how to play, with the result that to-day the repertoire of the Fita-Fita band covers a wide range of classical and popular airs.

"The favorite form of recreation for the Fita-Fitas is cricket. The English missionaries taught the Samoans the game, and cricket tournaments are gala events

Again the story is told by the maps showing the township surveys of the United States General Land Office. These square subdivisions have been laid out in general over the surface of all the States west of the Mississippi except Texas. Texas has been excepted because none of that State's area was owned by the United States before it entered the Union, and all public lands were specifically retained by the State.

Only a few relatively small desert and mountain spaces in New Mexico have not been divided into townships by Land Office surveys. But farther west large spaces appear on the map free from these squares. One of the largest of the blank spots shows up in southwestern Arizona north of the diagonal line that marks the Mexico-Arizona boundary from the 111th meridian westward to the Colorado River. The International Boundary Commission has surveyed the actual boundary and an adjoining strip two miles wide; but to the north lies a region nearly 200 miles from east to west and from 20 to 50 miles wide that has not been mapped.

This is one of the most conspicuous of the blank spots on the map of the United States. Other relatively unknown regions of considerable size (aside from Alaska, where there are extensive unexplored tracts) lie in northwestern Arizona, north of the Grand Canyon; in southern Nevada and eastern California, along the boundary between the two States; in Utah southwest of Great Salt Lake; and in southeastern Utah.

Expedition Entered Uninhabited Area in Utah

The latter region was explored in 1924 by an expedition of the National Geographic Society* which found an area of hundreds of square miles consisting of deeply eroded clay, shale and sandstone, with the sparsest of vegetation. Throughout an extensive area the explorers found not a single human inhabitant.

*"Beyond the Clay Hills, an Account of the National Geographic Society's Reconnaissance of a Previously Unexplored Section of Utah," by Neil M. Judd, *National Geographic Magazine*, March, 1924.

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REAR ADMIRAL BYRD DOES SOME MAPPING WORK

In the Antarctic, Rear Admiral Byrd and his companions have had the thrill of mapping some regions never before seen by the eye of man. When this picture was made, however, Rear Admiral Byrd and his companions were on board the *Chantier*, bound for Spitzbergen, from which he was soon to make a successful flight to the North Pole.

in the islands. Instead of having the regulation 11 on each side, however, the natives have as many as 40 or 50, so that a game very often assumes the proportions of a miniature battle.

"The 'rooting' section is the prime attraction at the tournament. The antics and capers of the Samoan 'bleacherites' at their games would make the 'stunts' of the undergraduates at an inter-collegiate game seem tame in comparison. The natives crouch on the side lines, beating wooden drums and giving vent to wild chants, easily eclipsing our own college cheers, as far as volume of noise is concerned.

"Courage of a high degree is characteristic of the Samoans. The world looked on with admiration in 1889 when the natives defied the warships of three nations—three American ships, one British, and three German. Then, when a hurricane swept the harbor of Apia on March 16, 1889, and destroyed all the assembled warships with the exception of the British *Calliope*, these 'savages' swam out and rescued their enemies."

Bulletin No. 5, January 27, 1930.

Note: The scattered islands of the South Pacific have a special type of civilization which has been portrayed in numerous articles in the *National Geographic Magazine*. Teachers and pupils studying South Sea life will find the following references valuable: "Around the World in the Islander," February, 1928; "Columbus of the Pacific" (Captain James Cook), January, 1927; "Pictorial Jaunt Through Papua," January, 1927; "The Hawaiian Islands," February, 1924; "The Mystery of Easter Island," December, 1921; "The Romance of Science in Polynesia," October, 1925; "The Dream Ship," January, 1921; "The Islands of the Pacific," December, 1921; "Nauru, the Richest Island of the South Seas," December, 1921; "Sailing the Seven Seas in the Interest of Science," December, 1922; "Tahiti: A Playground of Nature," October, 1920; "A Vanishing People of the South Seas" (Marquesans), October, 1919; "Yap and Other Pacific Islands Under Japanese Mandate," December, 1921.

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A SAMOAN ARTIST PAINTING TAPA

The importation of cheap, machine-made cotton goods has caused the natives of Polynesia to abandon the laborious task of making bark cloth (tapa), so that this household art is to-day seldom practiced. In making the tapa the women of the South Seas use the bark of several trees, that of the breadfruit being especially suitable. From a sapling or branch two or three inches in diameter the bark is slit with a sharp stone into lengths of about a foot. These are then beaten until the fibers spread to great width. While in almost a pulpy state, the edges of the pieces are beaten together. The completed cloth is colored in various designs with vegetable dyes.